

The 'Pick List'

Choosing an Employment Provider in Porter County



Indiana
**VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION**
Empowering People. Changing Lives.

How to Use This List

As a client of Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR), you are now a part of a team focused on your employment goals. VR has a list of employment service providers located throughout the state. These providers will help you achieve your goals by giving you the supports and services you need—things like help with writing a resume, filling out applications, or on-the-job coaching.

Now that your counselor has determined you are eligible for services, you have the opportunity to select an employment provider in your area. On the following pages, you’ll find the employment providers in your county along with their contact information and a list of services they offer.

Be sure to ask your VR counselor if you don’t know what some of the services are. The services you need will depend on your goals. You may not need all of the services you see listed on the chart.

We encourage you to contact each of the providers on this list. You can call them, set up a meeting, or send an email. Tell them you are a VR client and you would like to talk with them about the services they offer. Take notes so you can compare providers and choose the one that’s right for you. It’s important to select the provider you feel most comfortable working with and the one that you think can best help you meet your goals.

Once you’ve chosen an employment provider, tell your VR counselor. She/he will get things started for you.

Any questions? Ask your VR counselor!

My VR Counselor	
Name	
Phone	
Email	

Providers Located in Porter County

Address	Contact	Individuals Served	
Dungarvin Indiana, LLC Main Office & Service Site Location: 3570 Blackthorn Court South Bend, IN 46628 Service Site Location: 1605 Adler Circle, Suite D Portage, IN 46368	Daniel Hornback (219) 764-8404 dhornback@dungarvin.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Spectrum Disorders • Blind & Visually Impaired • Chronic Illness • Deaf & Hard of Hearing • Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled • Emotional Disabilities • Mental Illness • Non-Ambulatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurological Disabilities • Post-Secondary • Physical Disabilities • Speech Impaired • Transition-Age Students • Traumatic Brain Injury • Unemployed/Underemployed
Globe Star, LLC Main Office & Service Site Location: 621 Broadway Chesterton, IN 46304	Anthony M. McCrovitz, PhD (219) 921-5492 info@globe-star.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Spectrum Disorders • Blind and Visually Impaired • Chronic Illness • Criminal Background • Deaf & Hard of Hearing • Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled • Emotional Disabilities • Homeless Population • Legal Barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Illness • Non-Ambulatory • Neurological Disabilities • Physical Disabilities • Post-Secondary • Speech Impaired • Transition-Age Students • Traumatic Brain Injury • Unemployed/underemployed • Veterans
Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Inc. Main Office & Service Site Location: 1805 West Western Avenue South Bend, 46619 Service Site Location: 5906 Lute Road Portage, IN 46368 Service Site Location: 2109 Calumet Avenue Valparaiso, IN 46383	Pam Connors (219) 689-6914 pconnors@goodwill-ni.org Koreen Boger (800) 730-5697 Ext. 104 (219) 327-1724 Ext. 104 koger@goodwill-ni.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Spectrum Disorders • Bi-lingual • Blind & Visually Impaired • Criminal Background • Deaf & Hard of Hearing • Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled • Emotional Disabilities • Homeless Population • Legal Barriers • Mental Illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Ambulatory • Neurological Disabilities • Post-Secondary • Physical Disabilities • Speech Impaired • Transition-Age Students • Traumatic Brain Injury • Unemployed/Underemployed • Veterans

Address	Contact	Individuals Served
Opportunity Enterprises, Inc. Main Office & Service Site Location: 2801 Evans Avenue Valparaiso, IN 46383	Kathleen Parks Savich (219) 464-9621 Ext. 213 kathleen.savich@oppent.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addictions/Alcohol/Drug Substance Abuse • Autism Spectrum Disorders • Bi-lingual • Blind & Visually Impaired • Chronic Illness • Deaf & Hard of Hearing • Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled • Emotional Disabilities • Homeless Population • Mental Illness • Non-Ambulatory • Neurological Disabilities • Post-Secondary • Physical Disabilities • Speech Impaired • Transition-Age Students • Traumatic Brain Injury • Unemployed/Underemployed • Veterans

Providers Serving Porter County

Address	Contact	Individuals Served
Benchmark Human Services Main Office & Service Site Location: 926 East Wayne Street South Bend, IN 46617	Kyna Johnson (574) 233-8812 Ext. 10322 kjohnson@benchmarkhs.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addictions/Alcohol/Drug Substance Abuse • Autism Spectrum Disorders • Blind & Visually Impaired • Chronic Illness • Criminal Background • Deaf & Hard of Hearing • Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled • Emotional Disabilities • Homeless Population • Legal Barriers • Mental Illness • Non-Ambulatory • Neurological Disabilities • Post-Secondary • Physical Disabilities • Speech Impaired • Transition-Age Students • Traumatic Brain Injury • Unemployed/Underemployed • Veterans

Help the World Foundation

504 Broadway Street
Suite 301
Gary, Indiana 46402

317-384-1576

- Addictions/Alcohol/Drug Substance Abuse
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Bi-lingual
- Blind & Visually Impaired
- Chronic Illness
- Criminal Background
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled
- Emotional Disabilities
- Homeless Population
- Legal Barriers
- Mental Illness
- Non-Ambulatory
- Neurological Disabilities
- Post-Secondary
- Physical Disabilities
- Speech Impaired
- Transition-Age Students
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Unemployed/Underemployed
- Veterans

Address	Contact	Individuals Served	
New Star Main Office: 1005 West End Avenue Chicago Heights, IL 60411 Service Site Location: 833 W. Lincoln Hwy., Suite# 115W Schererville, IN 46375	Kara Pierce (219) 440-7430 kpierce@newstarservices.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Spectrum Disorders • Blind & Visually Impaired • Chronic Illness • Criminal Background • Deaf & Hard of Hearing • Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled • Emotional Disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Illness • Non-Ambulatory • Neurological Disabilities • Post-Secondary • Physical Disabilities • Speech Impaired • Traumatic Brain Injury • Unemployed/Underemployed
Paladin Main Office & Service Site Location: 4315 East Michigan Blvd. Michigan City, IN 46360	Diane Downs (219) 874-4288 Ext. 317 diane.downs@paladin.care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Spectrum Disorders • Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled • Mental Illness • Non-Ambulatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Disabilities • Speech Impaired • Transition-Age Students • Traumatic Brain Injury
TradeWinds Services, Inc. Main Office & Service Site Location: 3198 E. 83rd Place Merrillville, IN 46410	Vernita Macklin (219) 945-0100 Ext. 306 vmacklin@tradewindservices.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Spectrum Disorders • Blind & Visually Impaired • Chronic Illness • Criminal Background • Deaf & Hard of Hearing • Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled • Emotional Disabilities • Homeless Population • Legal Barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Illness • Neurological Disabilities • Post-Secondary • Physical Disabilities • Speech Impaired • Transition-Age Students • Traumatic Brain Injury • Unemployed/Underemployed • Veterans

Provider Employment Services

This chart lets you compare providers based on the services they offer.

AT – Assistive Technology	AU Eval. – Audiological Evaluation	BI – Behavioral Intervention
BIN – Benefits information Network	DE – Driver Education & Training	DME Eval – Durable Medical Equipment Evaluation
HM – Home Modifications	MH/C – Mental Health Therapy/Counseling	OT – Occupational Therapy
PT – Physical Therapy	TR – Transportation Training	TT – TABE Testing
TTW – Ticket to Work	VM – Vehicle Modifications	WIPA – Work Incentive Planning Assistance

Provider	Situational Assessment	Job Shadows	Vocational Testing	Work Experience	Job Development/ Placement/ Retention	Job Readiness Training	On-the-Job Supports	Supported Employment	Additional Services
Benchmark Human Services	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN
Dungarvin Indiana, LLC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN
Globe Star, LLC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN, TTW, TWE
Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Inc.	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN and TTW
Help the World Foundation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN
New Star	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN and TTW
Opportunity Enterprises, Inc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN
Paladin	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN
TradeWinds Services, Inc.	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN

Glossary

Assistive Technology

Any equipment, item, or technology used to improve function and capability.

Benefits Information Network

A group of Indiana professionals who have been trained in and have knowledge of federal, state, and local benefits and work incentives. BIN liaisons understand the impact of income on long-term supports and services and can advise workers and families on how best to maintain employment while building more financial independence.

Discovery

An opportunity to explore talents, interests, preferences, capabilities, and ideal work environment in order to identify an appropriate vocational goal. Specific Discovery activities vary based on individual need, but could include vocational testing, job shadowing, or career exploration.

Home and Wheelchair Modification

Any change to a home or workplace environment that can help an employee get to work or access a job site. Examples could include widening a doorway or creating a keyboard tray for a wheelchair.

Job Development/Placement/Retention

The process of working with an employer to either identify appropriate jobs and promote an individual with disabilities as a job candidate or help an individual keep a job.

Job-Readiness Training

The process of assisting clients in identifying goals as well as training strategies designed to help an individual meet them.

Job Shadowing

The opportunity to visit an employer in the community and observe different jobs.

On-the-Job Supports

Supports provided in the workplace to help an employee learn and maintain a job. These include the use of a job coach or consultation with an employment specialist.

Situational Assessments

Activities that give an employment provider the chance to observe an individual in a certain working environment or doing a specific job task.

Supported Employment

Paid, community-based employment with ongoing supports that can help individuals learn tasks, be included, and keep their jobs.

Ticket to Work

A free work incentive program from the Social Security Administration for some people with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Eligible individuals can assign their “ticket” (not a real paper ticket) to an employment network or to Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services for coordinating job search, placement, and retention services.

Work Experiences

First-hand, work-based learning opportunities that can help determine individual interests and preferences.